



## Council on Developmental Services



*Dannel P. Malloy*  
Governor

### **DRAFT Minutes of September 13, 2012**

Location: DDS Central Office, Conference Room A

**In Attendance:** James Heffernan, Chairman; Jennifer Carroll; Marisol De Jesus; Jack Frost; David Hadden, by phone; Jamie Lazaroff; Dr. Terrence Macy, Ex-Officio; Patti Silva

**Absent:** Patrick Vingo, Vice Chairman; Thomas Kalal; Sheila Mulvey; Dr. John Pelegano, Secretary; Lou Richards

**Guests:** Michael Carnright, Program Manager; Sandie Lavoy, VP, Community Rehabilitation Services; Tyrone Smith, Galley Attendant

**Staff:** Michelle Bacry, Executive Secretary; Joseph Drexler, Deputy Commissioner; Rod O'Connor, Legislative and Regulations Analyst

Chairman James Heffernan opened the meeting at 6:06 P.M. with introductions to Marisol De Jesus the newest member of the Council on Developmental Services.

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **Our Business is WORKing Presentation**

Michael Carnright, Program Manager; Sandie Lavoy, VP, Community Rehabilitation Services; Tyrone Smith, Galley Attendant presented information on CW Resources, Inc. – Our Business is WORKing. CW seeks out and creates work opportunities specifically for people with disabilities. The organization tries to ensure that everyone who wants to work is working and making choices about their work.

CW's employment approach is large and diverse through traditional job development, creating CW's own work and business ventures, commercial contracts, state procurement and Ability One contracts (NISH). Through these types of job opportunities over 989 individuals with disabilities were served in fiscal year 2012.

Tyron Smith, Galley Attendant spoke of his time with CW Resources and how they were able to assess his job skills and capabilities to where he is today working at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton, CT where he was recognized by the Food Services Officer for his outstanding services and was named "Civilian Employee of the Month".

Attached is a copy of CW Resources presentation.

#### **Approval of July Minutes**

Minutes for the July meeting were reviewed. Jennifer Carroll made a motion to accept the minutes as written for the July meeting. Patti Silva seconded the motion. The Council voted unanimously to accept the July minutes as written.

## **Ombudsman's Report**

The Ombudsman's Reports for June, July and August 2012 were distributed. Mr. Ed Mambruno highlighted the issues he has worked on with families during these months.

## **Legislative Update**

Rod O'Connor reviewed several tentative DDS legislative proposals for the 2013 session. DDS's legislative proposals are due by October 1<sup>st</sup>. A comprehensive list of the department's legislative proposals will be distributed via email to Council members once they are reviewed by the Office of Policy and Management and the Governor's office.

Mr. Heffernan asked what was happening with the Chief State's Attorney's sexual assault bill and whether it was being brought back before the legislature this session. Mr. O'Connor said that he thought the Chief State's Attorney's office would resubmit the bill and that DDS would be tracking the bill's progress and would keep the Council informed of its progress.

Mr. O'Connor reminded Council members that it is a political season and it is important to get involved in the process so that issues that are vital to Council members are discussed with candidates. It is important to engage with others in discussing these issues and Mr. O'Connor stressed the importance of voting in November.

Jack Frost asked Mr. O'Connor about his reappointment to the Council and what steps does he need to follow. Mr. O'Connor had distributed the Council on Developmental Services Membership list as of September 2012 which indicated which members are in need of re-appointment. Mr. O'Connor recommended any member who needs a reappointment letter from the Governor's office should request this in writing through the mail. Any legislative appointments Mr. O'Connor can assist with. When composing these letters it is important that you share what your involvement has been with the Council during your term.

## **Commissioner's Update**

Commissioner Macy recognizes the need of developing a stronger partnership with community as the Special Olympics and the DD Council has while attending the Special Olympics Sailing Regatta that was also attended by Jack Frost and the DD Council Annual Meeting.

Commissioner Macy wanted to acknowledge Linda Goodman, Director Birth to Three, who has been employed with the Department of Developmental Services for 40 years as of September 15<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Goodman is recognized nationally as an authority on early intervention services.

The Commissioner updated the Council on the most recent department activities concerning the Florida Institute for Neurologic Rehabilitation (FINAR). The Commissioner shared that he has been interviewed by Bloomberg News, Anderson Cooper 360 and NBC on these issues. An unannounced team led by Dr. Steven Zuckerman was sent on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> to Florida to ensure the health and safety of the 10 individuals that have been placed at FINAR. Dr. Zuckerman reported to Commissioner Macy that the team was in agreement that all individuals were safe and well supported. Department of Developmental Services' goal is to return 6 of the 10 individuals as soon as placements are found in Connecticut.

On Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> Patti Silva and Jennifer Carroll will be attending "Moving the Mission" at Manchester Community College. This program will be facilitated by three staff members from the Department of Social Services. The discussion will center on how DDS can make self-advocacy and self-determination a more central part of the DDS infrastructure and its operations.

Staffing updates: Jennifer Bogin has started as the new Director of Autism. In this position Jennifer will help create the future of the Autism Division and the supports it provides for individuals and families. Robin Wood is the new Family Support Strategies and Advocacy Director. She has started an Accessible Communication project that will provide individuals clear communication through the use of people first language and symbols and photos.

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

Jamie Lazaroff shared that he gave the keynote speech at People First Conference in Jacksonville, West Virginia. This was a three day conference which was attended by 300 individuals. Jamie's favorite quote from the conference was "if you're not at the table, you're on the menu".

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 P.M. on a motion by Jack Frost and seconded by Jamie Lazaroff.